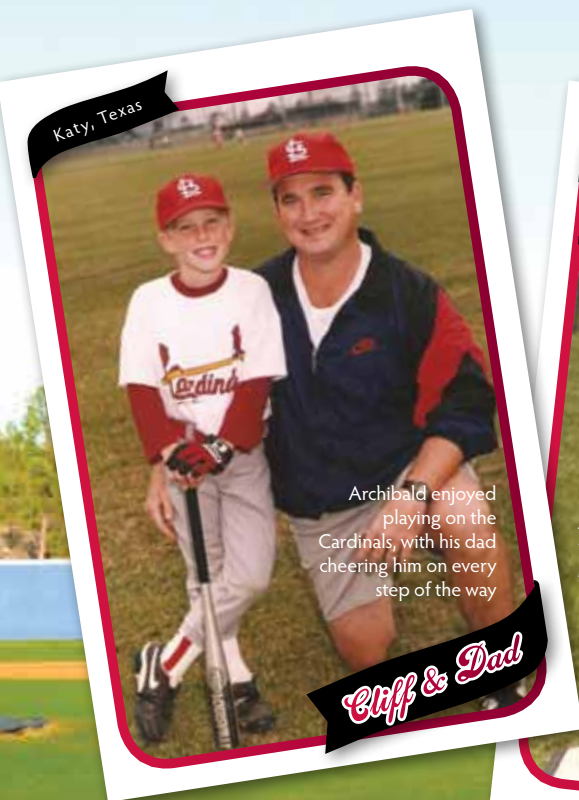


Katy's Baseball Star on the Rise **Cliff Archibald**

Now Pitching for the
Pittsburgh Pirates, This
Taylor High School Grad
Shares His Love of the Game

*Written by Natalie Cook Clark
Select Photography by Suzi Issa*



Archibald enjoyed playing on the Cardinals, with his dad cheering him on every step of the way



In his Little League days, Archibald was proud to be a Marlin



On his way to the majors, Cliff Archibald of Katy enjoys pitching for the Pittsburgh Pirates

“My best advice to anyone who wants to play baseball is to not give up. It has a lot of ups and downs, but in the end, the ups outweigh the downs.”

- Cliff Archibald



“Take me out to the ball game. Take me out to the crowd.” The iconic theme song for America’s favorite pastime also mirrors a way of life for Katy’s own baseball star Cliff Archibald, who throws out winning pitches for the Pittsburgh Pirates. As he goes to bat for the minor league team, starting on his second professional season, he keeps his dream of one day playing in the majors in sight. “That could take anywhere from one year to forever,” Archibald says. “But I give it my all every day, so that I will be in the majors soon.”

Archibald has loved baseball ever since he first picked up a ball when he was 4. He played all through school, making the playoffs during his time at Taylor High School. During his time on the Mustang baseball team, he also played through a back-to-back, no-hitter game.

Road to the Pros

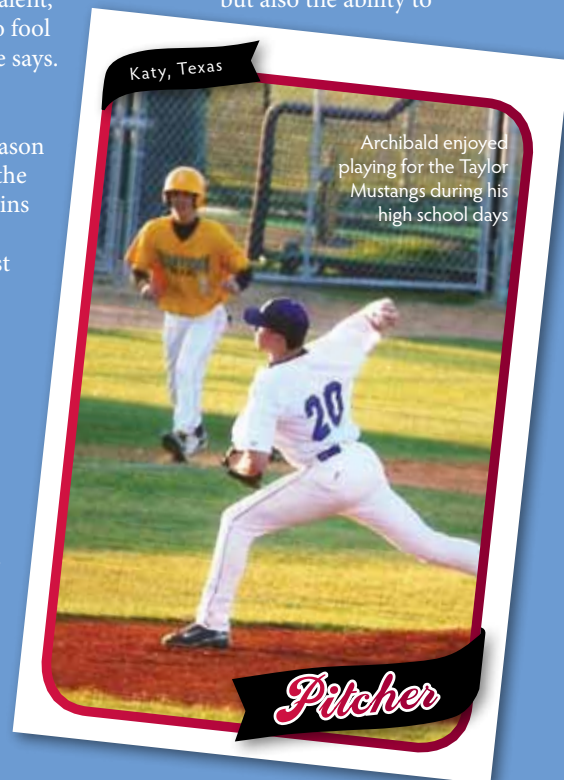
Archibald began his baseball career playing on many Little League teams in the Katy area, later taking the field for the THS Mustangs. He continued his ascent in the baseball world by playing for McClennan Community College in Waco. While in Waco, he learned a lot about himself as a player that still sticks with him today. Prior to attending community college, he had almost quit the sport, initially wanting to play for Baylor University. When they red-shirted him, he turned down the offer, thinking that his baseball career was over.

Luckily, Archibald stuck with it and discovered that he was a talented pitcher at MCC. After one season of playing for MCC, the Pittsburgh Pirates recruited him making him glad that he didn’t give up on his dreams. “My best advice to anyone who wants to play baseball is to not give up,” he says. “It has a lot of ups and downs, but in the end, the ups outweigh the downs.”

Finding His Strengths

As a pitcher, Archibald says that staying strong both mentally and physically is a key factor. “Pitchers have to be strong and well-versed in a variety of pitches,” he says. Although he can pitch many ways, his favorite pitch is the flighter. He loves the position, because it doesn’t just involve talent, but also the ability to read people. “It’s fun to fool people in the game,” he says.

His schedule varies depending if it is in-season or off-season. During the off-season, his day begins at 8 a.m. with eating a well-balanced breakfast and then an extensive two-hour workout. In the afternoon, he practices pitching. When Archibald is in season, his day begins earlier at 6 a.m. and he is at the field by 8 a.m. He alternates between workouts and extensive pitching sessions. “Eating the right things is a very important part of the training,” he explains. He also studies other pitchers and learns





from their careers. Pitcher Josh Beckett is someone that Archibald has always respected and would like to model his career after.

A Love for the Game

Archibald loves baseball. It's more than his career; it is a hobby and a passion. "I can always be better," he shares. "I can always one-up myself, which makes it a fun challenge." He is appreciative of the support of his family and his hometown of Katy. "Cliff has put a lot of time and work into baseball and it has paid off with the opportunity of a lifetime," says his mother Dee Archibald of Katy. "I am so proud of him for having the courage to pursue his dream."

As a 2009 graduate of THS, he says that the experience on the team greatly contributed to the player he is today. "This is definitely the career for me," he adds. "I love baseball. It's always a challenge, but in a good way." Katyites will have plenty to cheer for as they proudly watch Archibald's career take off down a road that will surely lead to the major leagues. **KM**

NATALIE COOK CLARK enjoys freelance writing and learning more about her hometown of Katy.

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